

B. Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 1 (withdrawn): A planer comprising:

a base;

a top frame connected to the base;

a cutterhead movably supported on the top frame relative to the base; and

a retractable measuring device attached to the top frame.

Claim 2 (withdrawn): The planer of claim 1, wherein the retractable measuring device has a first end retractably affixed to the top frame and a second end affixed to the cutterhead.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): The planer of claim 2, further comprising a scale indicator attached to the top frame adjacent the retractable measuring device.

Claim 4 (withdrawn): The planer of claim 3, wherein the scale indicator is located on a transparent member attached to the top frame and covering a portion of the retractable measuring device.

Claim 5 (withdrawn): The planer of claim 4 wherein the retractable measuring device has a scale thereon and wherein the scale cooperates with the scale indicator to display a height at which the cutterhead is positioned from the base.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): The planer of claim 2 wherein the first end of the retractable measuring device is attached to a roll coupled to the top frame.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): The planer of claim 6 wherein the roll is housed within a housing affixed to the top frame.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): A depth measuring apparatus for a planer having a base, a top frame connected to the base and a cutterhead movably supported relative to the base, the depth measuring apparatus comprising:

a retractable measuring tape attachable to the top frame.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): The planer of claim 8 wherein the retractable measuring device has a first end retractably affixed to the top frame and a second end affixed to the cutterhead.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): The planer of claim 9 further comprising a scale indicator attached to the top frame adjacent the retractable measuring device.

Claim 11 (withdrawn): The planer of claim 10 wherein the scale indicator is located on a transparent member attached to the top frame and covering a portion of the retractable measuring device.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The planer of claim 11 wherein the retractable measuring device has a scale thereon and wherein the scale cooperates with the scale indicator to display a height at which the cutterhead is positioned from the base.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The planer of claim 12 wherein the first end of the retractable measuring device is attached to a roll coupled to the top frame.

Claim 14 (withdrawn): The planer of claim 13 wherein the roll is housed within a housing affixed to the top frame.

Claim 15 (withdrawn): A planer comprising:
a frame;
an electrically powered cutterhead having an on/off switch supported on the frame, the on/off switch movable between an on position wherein the cutterhead is activated and an off position wherein the cutterhead is deactivated;
an infeed table pivotable between an extended operating position and a storage position, the infeed table biasing the on/off switch to the off position when in the storage position.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): The planer of claim 15, further comprising:

- a first aperture in the frame;
- a second aperture through the infeed table wherein the first and second apertures are aligned when the infeed table is in the storage position; and
- a locking device insertable through the aligned first and second apertures.

Claim 17 (withdrawn): The planer of claim 16 wherein the locking device comprises a padlock.

Claim 18 (withdrawn): A planer for removing material from a workpiece, the planer comprising:

- a base;
- a cutterhead movably supported relative to the base;
- a workpiece level indicator movably affixed to the cutterhead such that the workpiece level indicator is movable between an engaged position and a disengaged position;
- a biaser attached to the cutterhead to bias the workpiece level indicator into the engaged position.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): The planer of claim 18, further comprising a cover plate covering an inscription on the workpiece level indicator plate when the workpiece level indicator plate is in the disengaged position and exposing the inscription when the workpiece level indicator plate is in the engaged position.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A planer, comprising:

- a base;
- a top frame connected to the base;
- a cutterhead movably supported relative to the base to define an adjustable opening therebetween for selective travel in a first direction toward the base and a second opposite direction; and
- a depth stop mechanism attached to the top frame and not extending into the adjustable opening, the depth stop mechanism having a depth stop member and selectively preventing travel of the cutterhead in the first direction beyond a pre-selected

distance from the base when the depth stop member contacts an abutment portion of a column-like member attached to the base, while permitting travel of the cutterhead in the second direction.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A planer, comprising:

a base;

first and second support members attached to the base and movably supporting thereon a cutterhead for selective travel in a first direction toward the base and a second opposite direction;

a top frame attached to at least the first support member; and

a depth stop mechanism having a depth stop member, wherein the depth stop mechanism is attached to the top frame for selectively preventing travel of the cutterhead in the first direction beyond a pre-selected distance from the base when the depth stop member contacts an abutment surface on the first support member, while permitting travel of the cutterhead in the second direction.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The planer of claim 21 wherein the depth stop mechanism further comprises:

~~an abutment surface on the first support member;~~

~~a depth stop member rotatably supported on a portion of the first support member adjacent to the abutment surface thereof, the depth stop member slidably supported in the top frame; and~~

an adjustment assembly in the top frame, the adjustment assembly selectively adjusting a position of the depth stop member on the first support member relative to the abutment surface wherein the depth stop member is rotatably supported on a first threaded portion of the first support member adjacent to the abutment surface thereof.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The planer of claim 22 wherein the depth stop member comprises a depth stop nut threadedly received on a the first threaded portion of the first support member and wherein the first support member is rotatable.

Claim 24 (currently amended): The planer of claim 23 wherein the adjustment assembly comprises a sleeve rotatably supported within the top frame and slidably and non-rotatably supporting the depth stop nut therein such that rotation of the sleeve rotates the depth stop nut on the first threaded portion of the first support member.

Claim 25 (original): The planer of claim 24 further comprising a sleeve locking mechanism for selectively preventing rotation of the sleeve relative to the top frame.

Claim 26 (original): The planer of claim 25 wherein the first support member defines an axis of rotation about which the sleeve may rotate and wherein the sleeve locking mechanism comprises:

a bushing attached to the sleeve such that rotation of the bushing rotates the sleeve about the axis of rotation, the bushing having at least a portion with a non-circular exterior, the non-circular exterior of the bushing selectively receivable in a bore within the top frame that is shaped to define a plurality of positions about the axis of rotation in which the bushing may be retained when the non-circular exterior of the bushing is received therein; and

a knob attached to the first support member for selective rotation of the first support member relative to the bushing, the knob being selectively engageable with the bushing for rotating the sleeve about the axis of rotation.

Claim 27 (original): The planer of claim 26 wherein the bushing is integral with the sleeve.

Claim 28 (original): The planer of claim 26 wherein the knob includes a plurality of posts corresponding to a plurality of ramps on the bushing for selectively locking the sleeve in a non-rotatable position.

Claim 29 (original): The planer of claim 28 further comprising a biaser for biasing the knob to a disengaged position.

Claim 30 (original): The planer of claim 21 further comprising a retractable measuring device having a first end retractably affixed to the top frame and a second end affixed to the cutterhead.

Claim 31 (original): The planer of claim 23, wherein the depth stop nut is at a bottom end of the sleeve and abuts the abutment surface on the first support member when the cutterhead reaches a predetermined distance away from the base when the sleeve is in the engaged position.

Claim 32 (original): The planer of claim 26, wherein the sleeve is locked in the engaged position when the knob is biased toward the top frame and rotated such that the posts travel up the ramps and are received in corresponding slots in the ramps.

Claim 33 (currently amended): The planer of claim 21, wherein the first support member is linked to the second support member such that rotation of the first support member causes substantially identical rotation of the second support member such that the cutterhead remains substantially parallel to the base during height adjustment.

Claim 34 (original): The planer of claim 33, wherein the first support member is linked to the second support member by an endless chain received on sprockets on the first support member and the second support member.

Claim 35 (currently amended): The planer of claim 23, wherein the depth stop nut travels on a the first threaded portion of a the first support member having a first pitch and the cutterhead travels on a second threaded portion of the first support member having a second pitch.

Claim 36 (original): The planer of claim 35, wherein the ratio of the first pitch to the second pitch is about 2.5.

Claim 37 (currently amended): A material removal device, comprising:
a base;

frame means ~~attached~~ connected to the base and having a top portion;
 means for removing material from a workpiece when positioned on the base;
 means for adjusting a location of the means for removing relative to the base,
 such that upon rotation of the means for adjusting in a first direction, the means for
 removing moves towards the base and upon rotation of the means for adjusting in a
 second direction, the means for removing moves away from the base; and
 means attached to the top portion of the frame means for selectively stopping the
 means for removing at from moving beyond a predetermined distance ~~from~~ toward the
 base while permitting the means for removing to move away from the base, wherein the
means for selectively stopping has a depth stop means for preventing the means from
removing to move beyond the predetermined distance when the depth stop means
abuts at least one column-like member supported on the base.

Claim 38 (currently amended): The material removal device of claim 37 wherein
 the means for adjusting comprises a first rotatable ~~spindle~~ column-like member and a
 second rotatable ~~spindle~~ column-like member supported on the base and coupled to the
 means for removing.

Claim 39 (currently amended): The material removal device of claim 38 ~~further~~
~~comprising:~~ wherein the depth stop means is positioned on a portion of the first
 rotatable ~~spindles~~ column-like member and ~~, the depth stop means being~~ selectively
 rotatable thereon for selective abutment with a shoulder on the first rotatable ~~spindle~~
column-like member such that when the depth stop means is in abutting relationship to
 the shoulder, the removing means cannot move toward the base; and wherein a depth
 stop adjustment means is supported in the top portion of the frame means for adjusting
 the position of the depth stop means on the first rotatable ~~spindle~~ column-like member.

Claim 40 (currently amended): The material removal device of claim 39, further
 comprising means for indicating when the means for removing ~~material~~ contacts a
 workpiece on the base.

Claim 41 (original): The material removal device of claim 42 39, further comprising means for indicating a distance at which the means for removing material is located from the base.

Claim 42 (withdrawn): A dust removal assembly for a machine that includes a carriage assembly that has an infeed side, an outfeed side and a rotary cutting member, the dust removal assembly comprising:

- a manifold removably attachable to the carriage assembly over the cutting member on the outfeed side of the carriage assembly;

- a dust deflector directing airflow to the manifold; and

- a dust chute communicating with the manifold, the dust chute having a channel releasably connected to the carriage assembly and a side opening for connection to a vacuum hose.

Claim 43 (withdrawn): The dust removal assembly of claim 42, wherein the channel includes two end posts which are slideably received in corresponding slots of the carriage assembly.

Claim 44 (withdrawn): A planer comprising:

- a carriage assembly that has an infeed side, an outfeed side and a pair of guiding slots;

- a rotary cutting member within the carriage assembly; and

- dust removal assembly comprising:

- a manifold removably attachable to the carriage assembly over the cutting member on the outfeed side of the carriage assembly;

- a dust deflector directing airflow to the manifold; and

- a dust chute communicating with the manifold, the dust chute having a side opening for connection to a vacuum hose and a channel releasably connected to the carriage assembly with a pair of posts correspondingly slidable in the pair of guiding slots.

Claim 45 (withdrawn): The dust removal assembly of claim 42, wherein the channel is symmetrically shaped such that the dust chute is selectively attachable to the carriage assembly in one of a two positions.

Claim 46 (withdrawn): The dust collector of claim 45, wherein in one of the two positions the side opening is directed to a right side of the machine.

Claim 47 (withdrawn): The planer of claim 44, wherein the channel is symmetrically shaped such that the dust chute is selectively attachable to the carriage assembly in one of two positions.

Claim 48 (withdrawn): The planer of claim 47, wherein in one of the two positions the side opening is directed to a right side of the planer.

Claim 49 (withdrawn): A dust removal assembly for a machine that includes a carriage assembly that has an infeed side, an outfeed side and a rotary cutting member, the dust removal assembly comprising:

- a manifold removably attachable to the carriage assembly over the cutting member on the outfeed side of the carriage assembly; and

- a dust chute communicating with the manifold, the dust chute having a side opening for connection to a vacuum hose and a channel that is releasably and selectively connected to the carriage assembly in one of two positions.

Claim 50 (withdrawn): A dust removal assembly for a machine that includes a carriage assembly that has an infeed side, an outfeed side and a rotary cutting member, the dust removal assembly comprising:

- a manifold removably attachable to the carriage assembly over the cutting member on the outfeed side of the carriage assembly;

a dust chute communicating with the manifold, the dust chute having a side opening for connection to a vacuum hose; and

means for releasably and selectively connecting the dust chute to the carriage assembly in one of two positions.

Claim 51 (withdrawn): A planer comprising:

a carriage assembly that has an infeed side, an outfeed side and a pair of guiding slots;

a rotary cutting member within the carriage assembly; and

dust removal assembly comprising:

a manifold removably attachable to the carriage assembly over the cutting member on the outfeed side of the carriage assembly; and

means for releasably and selectively connecting the dust chute to the carriage assembly in one of two positions.

Claim 52 (new): The planer of claim 20, wherein the column-like member defines a central axis extending normal to the base and along which the depth stop member travels toward the abutment portion.

Claim 53 (new): The planer of claim 52, wherein the depth stop mechanism does not provide more than one abutment portion.

Claim 54 (new): A planar comprising:

a base;

a top frame connected to the base;

a cutterhead movably supported relative to the base for selective travel in a first direction toward the base and a second direction away from the base; and

a depth stop mechanism having a rotatable depth stop member coupled to the cutterhead, the depth stop member oriented for contact with a column-like member attached to the base when the cutterhead travels in the first direction to prevent further travel of the cutterhead beyond a pre-selected distance in the first direction while not preventing travel in the second direction.

Claim 55 (new): The planer of claim 54, wherein the column-like member defines a central axis extending normal to the base and along which the rotatable depth stop member abuts the column-like member.

Claim 56 (new): The planer of claim 54, wherein the column-like member is rod shaped.

Claim 57 (new): The planer of claim 54, wherein the rotatable depth stop member is capable of adjustment to select a distance from the base the cutterhead will be prevented from traveling in the first direction.

Claim 58 (new): A planer, comprising:

a base;

first and second support members attached to the base and movably supporting thereon a cutterhead for selective travel in a first direction toward the base and a second opposite direction;

a top frame attached to at least the first support member; and

a depth stop mechanism attached to the top frame for selectively preventing travel of the cutterhead in the first direction beyond a pre-selected distance from the base, wherein the depth stop mechanism comprises;

an abutment surface on the first support member;

a depth stop member rotatably supported on a first threaded portion of the first support member adjacent to the abutment surface thereof, the depth stop member slidably supported in the top frame and further comprising a depth stop nut threadedly received on the first threaded portion of the first support member and wherein the first support member is rotatable; and

an adjustment assembly in the top frame, the adjustment assembly selectively adjusting a position of the depth stop member on the first support member relative to the abutment surface.

Claim 59 (new): The planer of claim 58 wherein the adjustment assembly comprises a sleeve rotatably supported within the top frame and slidably and non-rotatably supporting the depth stop nut therein such that rotation of the sleeve rotates the depth stop nut on the first threaded portion of the first support member.

Claim 60 (new): The planer of claim 59 further comprising a sleeve locking mechanism for selectively preventing rotation of the sleeve relative to the top frame.

Claim 61 (new): The planer of claim 60 wherein the first support member defines an axis of rotation about which the sleeve may rotate and wherein the sleeve locking mechanism comprises:

a bushing attached to the sleeve such that rotation of the bushing rotates the sleeve about the axis of rotation, the bushing having at least a portion with a non-circular exterior, the non-circular exterior of the bushing selectively receivable in a bore within the top frame that is shaped to define a plurality of positions about the axis of rotation in which the bushing may be retained when the non-circular exterior of the bushing is received therein; and

a knob attached to the first support member for selective rotation of the first support member relative to the bushing, the knob being selectively engageable with the bushing for rotating the sleeve about the axis of rotation.

Claim 62 (new): The planer of claim 61 wherein the bushing is integral with the sleeve.

Claim 63 (new): The planer of claim 61 wherein the knob includes a plurality of posts corresponding to a plurality of ramps on the bushing for selectively locking the sleeve in a non-rotatable position.

Claim 64 (new): The planer of claim 63 further comprising a biaser for biasing the knob to a disengaged position.

Claim 65 (new): The planer of claim 58, wherein the depth stop nut is at a bottom end of the sleeve and abuts the abutment surface on the first support member when the cutterhead reaches a predetermined distance away from the base when the sleeve is in the engaged position.

Claim 66 (new): The planer of claim 61, wherein the sleeve is locked in the engaged position when the knob is biased toward the top frame and rotated such that the posts travel up the ramps and are received in corresponding slots in the ramps.

Claim 67 (new): The planer of claim 58, wherein the depth stop nut travels on the first threaded portion of the first support member having a first pitch and the cutterhead travels on a second threaded portion of the first support member having a second pitch.

Claim 68 (new): The planer of claim 67, wherein the ratio of the first pitch to the second pitch is about 2.5.

Claim 69 (new): A planer, comprising:

a base;

first and second support members attached to the base and movably supporting thereon a cutterhead for selective travel in a first direction toward the base and a second opposite direction;

a top frame attached to at least the first support member; and

a depth stop mechanism attached to the top frame for selectively preventing travel of the cutterhead in the first direction beyond a pre-selected distance from the base, wherein the first support member is linked to the second support member such that rotation of the first support member causes identical rotation of the second support member such that the cutterhead remains parallel to the base during height adjustment.

Claim 70 (new): The planer of claim 69, wherein the first support member is linked to the second support member by an endless chain received on sprockets on the first support member and the second support member.

Claim 71 (new): A planer, comprising:

a base;

first and second support members attached to the base and movably supporting thereon a cutterhead for selective travel in a first direction toward the base and a second opposite direction;

a top frame attached to at least the first support member;

a depth stop mechanism attached to the top frame for selectively preventing travel of the cutterhead in the first direction beyond a pre-selected distance from the base; and

a retractable measuring device having a first end retractably affixed to the top frame and a second end affixed to the cutterhead.

Claim 72 (new): A material removal device, comprising:

a base;

frame means attached to the base and having a top portion;

means for removing material from a workpiece on the base;

means for adjusting a location of the means for removing relative to the base, such that upon rotation of the means for adjusting in a first direction, the means for removing moves towards the base and upon rotation of the means for adjusting in a second direction, the means for removing moves away from the base; and

means attached to the top portion of the frame means for selectively stopping the means for removing at a predetermined distance from the base, wherein the means for adjusting comprises a first rotatable spindle and a second rotatable spindle supported on the base and coupled to the means for removing.

Claim 73 (new): The material removal device of claim 72 further comprising:

depth stop means on a portion of the first rotatable spindle, the depth stop means being selectively rotatable thereon for selective abutment with a shoulder on the first rotatable spindle such that when the depth stop means is in abutting relationship to the shoulder, the removing means cannot move toward the base; and

depth stop adjustment means supported in the top portion of the frame means for adjusting the position of the depth stop means on the first rotatable spindle.

Claim 74 (new): The material removal device of claim 73, further comprising means for indicating when the means for removing contacts a workpiece on the base.

Claim 75 (new): The material removal device of claim 73, further comprising means for indicating a distance at which the means for removing material is located from the base.